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A PARAMOUNT LINE PUBLICATION

OURSELVES and OTHERS

A
CHRISTMAS
PLAYLET



Published by
MEYER & BROTHER
56 West Washington Street
CHICAGO, ILL.

A PARAMOUNT LINE PUBLICATION

OURSELVES *and* OTHERS

A Christmas Program and Playlet Complete

UNIQUE — SIMPLE — EFFECTIVE



Written by
LULA M. PUTNAM

PRICE TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

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Explanation

THE presentation of this playlet will require very little memorizing, and a minimum amount of effort.

The two parts are really separate and distinct from each other and can be given separately if so desired. We suggest, however, that the program be rendered in its entirety as herein shown. Changes in names, songs and settings can be introduced, of course, as best suited for any particular place and participants.

The first part representing the birth of Jesus, the glad tidings to the Shepherds, the homage of the Wise Men, etc., prepares the way for the second part which introduces the real spirit of Christmas.

The songs herein used are found in nearly all Church hymnals. For other Christmas songs, recitations, dialogues, helps, etc., see ads on the back cover of this program.

This playlet was given a thorough try-out before being published and proved wonderfully effective.

MAY 22 1922

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The Christmas Program

Part One

- (1) PRAYER:
- (2) SONG: "Angels From the Realms of Glory."
- (3) SCENE: Good Tidings for the Shepherds.
- (4) SONG: "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night."
- (5) SONG: "Hark What Mean Those Holy Voices."

Part Two

- (6) SCENE: Christ in the Manger.
- (7) SONG: "Away In a Manger."
- (8) SCENE: Shepherds Pay Homage to the Christ Child.
- (9) SCENE: Arrival of the Wise Men.
- (10) SONG: "Joy to the World."

The Play in Two Scenes *Ourselves and Others*

- (1) SCENE: Living Room in Harrison Home.
- (2) SCENE: Room in the Williams Home.

Helpful Suggestions

DECORATIONS: The decorations should be very simple. A tree, prettily trimmed and placed at one side of the platform helps to satisfy the children and adds to the beauty. A single big bright star should be suspended above the platform, and if it is made of tinsel it will sparkle when the lights are turned on the stage only. Pine branches pinned to sheets can cover the Altar rail, and some larger branches standing at the back of the platform add to the effect. A large canvass can be spread on the floor and strewn with hay or straw for the shepherd and stable scene, and will help wonderfully the naturalness, making it easy to gather up before the play. The two rooms of the Harrison and Williams families can be easily set with appropriate furniture to which the extent of the decorations will be to your own choosing.

COSTUMES: The Angels should wear white waists or shirts (they may be both men and women) and a sheet pinned about the neck and caught together under each arm makes a very acceptable costume. Bath Robes, the gayer the better, do nicely for the Shepherds, Joseph, and the Wise Men. It adds to the effect to have a bright sash draped across the shoulder and tied under the opposite arm, although this can be omitted. Each should have a bright cloth draped around the head, the ends hanging down the back, and the Shepherds should carry crooks. A Kimono with sash draped over the shoulder and extending over the head makes an acceptable costume for Mary. Christ may be represented by a life sized doll wrapped in swaddling clothes. The Manger may be made of laths in the shape of a feed rack with lath legs to raise it from the floor a few feet. A flash light or extension light concealed in the Manger will add to the effect. The light will show only on the faces of Mary, the Shepherds and the Wise Men as they gaze with awe into the manger.

Part One

(1) INVOCATION:

(2) After the invocation, a quartette in the back of the auditorium or balcony sings softly "Angels From the Realms of Glory." Singers near the platform join in the refrain at the close of each verse "Come and Worship," etc.

HENRY SMART

4 Saints, before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear:
Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

5 Sinners, wrung with true repentance,
Doomed for guilt to endless pains,
Justice now revokes the sentence,
Mercy calls you, break your chains:
Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

JAMES MONTGOMERY

(3) and (4) With the room in semi-darkness, the choir or soloist sings "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night." At the words, "And Glory Shone Around" in the first stanza, lights are switched on to the stage only, where three or four shepherds are seen seated or reclining on the floor. At the close of the first stanza an angel appears and sings the second stanza using the following words:

"Fear Not! Oh trembling Shepherds,
In Peace compose your mind,
Glad Tidings of great joy I bring,
To you and all mankind."

He sings also the third and fourth stanza while the Choir, or the soloist sings the fifth stanza. The sixth stanza is sung by the angel joined by a number of others who sing in a swelling chorus.

From GEORGE F. HÄNDEL

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night, All seat-ed on the ground, The an-gel of the Lord came down, And glory shone a-round, And glory shone a-round. A-MEN.

2 "Fear not!" said he; for mighty dread Had seized their troubled mind, "Glad tidings of great joy I bring, To you and all mankind.

3 "To you, in David's town, this day Is born, of David's line, The Saviour, who is Christ the Lord; And this shall be the sign:

4 "The heavenly bube you there shall find To human view displayed, All meanly wrapped in swathing-bands, And in a manger laid."

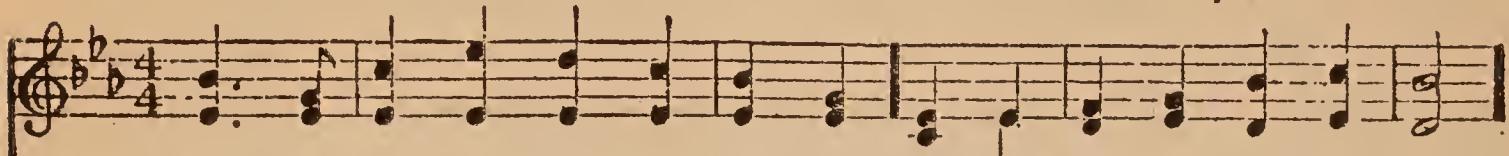
5 Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith Appeared a shining throng Of angels praising God on high, Who thus addressed their song:

6 "All glory be to God on high, And to the earth be peace: Good will henceforth from heaven to men, Begin and never cease!"

TATE and BRADY

(5) As the angel disappears, one shepherd says to his companions, "Let us go now even unto Bethlehem and see this thing that is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us." The shepherds then retire and the curtain falls as the Sunday School Classes sing, "Hark What Mean Those Holy Voices, etc."

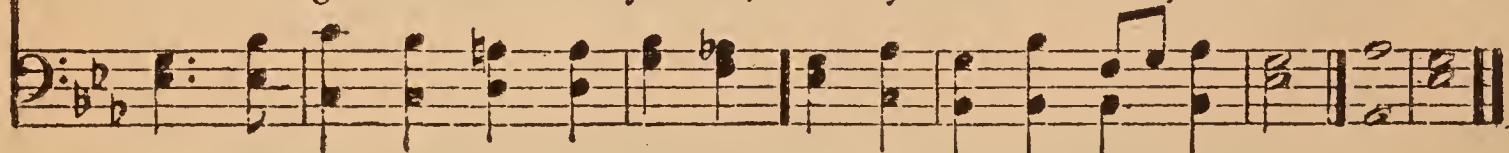
JOHN B DYKES



1. Hark! what mean those ho - ly voi - ces, Sweet ly sound- ing through the skies?



Lo! the an-gel - ic host re - joi - ces; Heavenly hal - le lu - jahs rise A - MEN.



2 Listen to the wondrous story,
Which they chant in hymns of joy:
"Glory in the highest, glory,
Glory be to God most high!"

4 "Christ is born, the great Anointed;
Heaven and earth his praises sing;
O receive whom God appointed,
For your Prophet, Priest, and King.

3 "Peace on earth, good will from heaven,
Reaching far as man is found;
Souls redeemed and sins forgiven!
Loud our golden harps shall sound.

5 "Hasten, mortals, to adore him;
Learn his name, and taste his joy;
Till in heaven ye sing before him,
'Glory be to God most high!'"

JOHN CALWOOD

(End of Part One)

Part Two

(6) SETTING: Interior of a barn, manger of hay in which lies the infant Christ, his Mother bending over him and Joseph standing near. The primary children or others sing the carol "Away In a Manger" as the curtain goes up.

Martin Luther.



1. A - way in a man - ger, No crib for a bed, The lit - tle Lord
 2. The cat - tle are low - ing, The poor Ba - by wakes, But lit - tle Lord
 3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask Thee to stay Close by me for -



Je - sus Laid down His sweet head; The stars in the sky... Looked
 Je - sus No cry - ing He makes; I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look
 ev - er, And love me, I pray; Bless all the dear chil - dren In



down where He lay,— The lit - tle Lord Je sus A - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky, And stay by my era dle Till morn - ing is nigh.
 Thy ten - der care, And take us to heav - en, To live with Thee there.



(8) The shepherds appear and kneel before the manger in an attitude of reverence. One shepherd says "An angel brought us this good tiding while we were watching our flocks and we came with haste to see our new born Savior." As he rises to his feet another says, "Let us haste and make known to others this wonderful thing that has come to pass." The third

shepherd says, "Even so, Reuben and Simeon, who stayed to watch the flocks while we came to Bethlehem, must needs know that we found the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger, even as the shining messenger said unto us." They bow to the child and his parents and go out.

(9) After a few moments the three Wise Men from the East come in singing. Each lays his gift on the manger after finishing his verse.

John H. Hopkins.
SOLI.

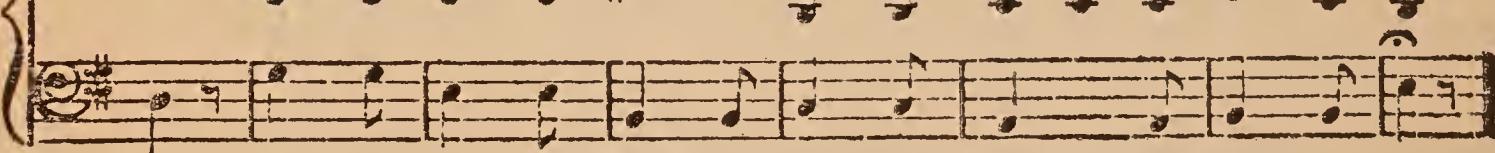
Alt. and Adap. by Carl Ackermann



1. (Trio.) We three Kings of O - ri - ent are; Bear - ing gifts, we trav - erse a -
2. (1st King.) Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, Gold I bring to crown Him a -
3. (2d King.) Frank-in-cense to of - fer have I, In - cense owns a De - i - ty
4. (3d King.) Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per-fume Breathes a life of gath - er - ing
5. (Trio.) Glo - rious now be - hold Him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri -



far, Field and foun - tain, Moor and moun - tain, Fol - low - ing yon - der Star.
gain; King for - ev - er, Ceas - ing nev - er O - ver us all to reign.
nigh: Prayer and prais - ing, All men rais - ing, Wor - ship Him, God on high.
gloom; Sorrowing, sigh - ing, Bleed - ing, dy - ing, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
fice, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah! Heav - en and earth re - plies:



(10) The audience may sing "Joy to the World" or "Silent Night" after the curtain falls while the stage is being prepared for the Christmas Play.

(End of Part Two)

A Christmas Play in Two Scenes

CHARACTERS

The five Harrison children: Helen, 15; Mary, 12; James, 11; Will, 8; Ruth, 6; and Carol Boyd, 16.

Scene One

A living room in the Harrison home, the children surrounded by all sorts of toys. Helen is tatting or crocheting. None of them seem happy.

RUTH—I don't think Christmas is much fun. I didn't get hardly anything this year—just two dolls and a go-cart and a doll's high chair, and a little stove, and four kettles to cook in. I wanted a doll house and a tricycle and a little piano and a walking doll.

JAMES—Don't you know, Ruth, that those things cost a pile of money? You got no kick coming. How would you feel if you were a boy and you got a book and a pair of skates and a pile driver and four mechanical toys, when you hate to read (throws book to one side), and you don't know how to skate (kicks at the skates), and there isn't any ice anyway, and you didn't want anything but a chest of tools?

MARY—You'd saw off your finger the first day you had your tools or bore a hole in the floor. I guess that's the reason why you didn't get any. You don't catch me kicking, even if I didn't get much.

WILL—(pointing to Mary's gifts)—Why, who do all these things belong to? Aren't they yours?

MARY—Yes, they are, but you don't call *that* much, do you? Only a purse, and a necklace, and a bracelet, three story books, and a box of candy, and a set of furs—that's all.

(Knock is heard and Helen admits Carol Boyd.)

CAROL—Hello, Helen, are you having a merry Christmas?

HELEN—No, I'm not. I'm so disappointed. I thought sure papa was going to get me a half carat diamond for Christmas, but he didn't. He said I was too young for such jewelry, but just lots of the girls in our school have them. I don't believe that was the reason he didn't get it. I suppose it cost too much.

CAROL—But it looks very much as though you had been well remembered even if you didn't get a diamond ring.

HELEN—Why, I suppose I can't complain. A wrist watch, a bar pin (she points to these articles, which she is wearing), a five-pound box of chocolates (passes the candy to Carol), opera glasses, a hand painted dresser set, and a white fox muff. But these are all such inexpensive things. I don't suppose there is a thing here that cost \$25. Well, maybe the watch did—and perhaps the muff, too.

CAROL—Why, Helen Harrison! There isn't one of those lovely things that cost less than \$5 and some of them a good deal more. Five of those at \$5, and \$25 for the watch makes more than \$50 spent on one girl! And even then she isn't happy! Don't you know that there are hundreds of people in this city who won't have enough to eat today, to say nothing of a single gift?

HELEN—I don't know any such people. I guess they are only in story books. You needn't think I am extravagant. Why, Harriet Monroe's father bought her a fur coat that cost \$500, and she got stacks of presents besides that.

CAROL—My mother says it's a shame for a girl of 16 to wear a \$500 coat. Let me tell you about some children we saw yesterday. Come here, Ruth and Mary, and you boys, too. I'm sure you will be interested. How would you feel, Will, if you didn't have a single toy to play with?

WILL—I wouldn't like that, you bet.

CAROL—Ruth, I saw two little girls yesterday that didn't have a single doll. They had rags wrapped around pieces of kindling wood—those were the only dolls they had.

RUTH—Well, I'd just cry till my papa'd buy me a big doll that goes to sleep and wakes up.

CAROL—But these children's papa has been sick for a long time and couldn't work. They have had a hard time to buy enough to eat and clothes to keep them warm. Our Sunday School had a White Gift program for Christmas and we're going to take some things to them and to other families like them that won't have any Christmas unless some one brings it.

JAMES—What are you going to take them?

CAROL—Why, a lot of groceries, caps and mittens, shoes and stockings and dresses.

RUTH—Won't you take them any dollies?

CAROL—Maybe there will be a dolly or two—I hope so.

(Ruth goes out and comes back with two dolls in her arms.)

RUTH—Here, Carol, take these to the poor little girls.

CAROL—Are you sure you want to give these away? You know you will never see them again.

RUTH—Well, I'll kiss 'em by-by. (Kisses each doll, then shakes her finger at them as she lays them on Carol's lap.) Now, be nice babies.

MARY—Carol, I'm ashamed to see Ruth give away her dollies and keep all mine. I have four, so I'll give two of them. Will those little girls take good care of them? (Goes out and gets dolls.)

CAROL—I'm sure they will.

JAMES—Why can't we go with you and carry some things? I've got some books and tops and two balls I'd like to give 'em.

CAROL—That's a fine idea, James. You wrap your gifts up and bring them to the church. (She rises and lays the dolls that were put into her lap on the chair where she was sitting.) We start from there at two o'clock this afternoon.

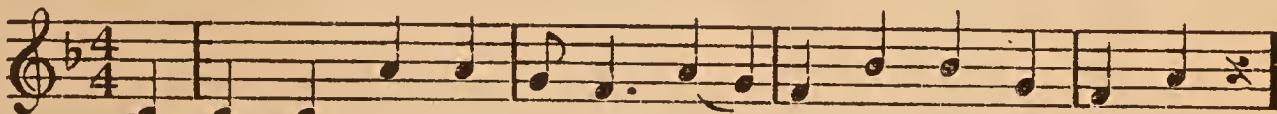
HELEN—I'll go, too, Carol. You've made me feel ashamed and selfish. I have lots of things that I have never even used, that these girls would think were lovely—and they are, but I've had so much I didn't appreciate them.

CAROL—Goodby, then, all of you, till two o'clock. From the happy look on your faces, I believe you're going to have a merry Christmas, after all.

MARY—Why, we sang a song in school that is just like this, but I never thought before what the words meant.

CAROL—What is it? Sing it for me.

MARY—Come on, Children; let's sing it. (James, Ruth and Will stand up by her.)



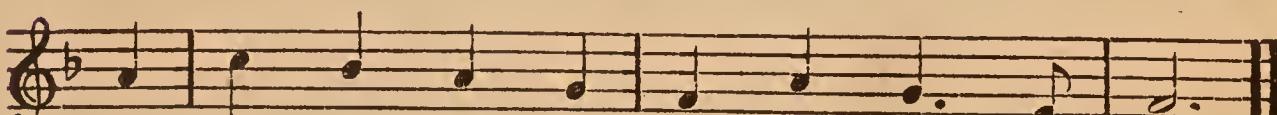
Oh, don't you see that giv-ing Is just the best of liv-ing,



When ev - 'ry - bod - y thinks of all his friends?



If kind-ness all kept do - ing, Each oth-er's good pur-su - ing,



We'd have a Christ-mas time that nev - er ends.

CAROL—Fine! And it's just as true as it can be. Good-by. (She goes out.)

WILL—Let's gather up our things and get 'em ready. Come on, I've got mine. (All go out with arms full of toys.)

(CURTAIN)

Scene Two

CHARACTERS

Mr. Williams, father; Mrs. Williams, mother. The Williams children: Joe, 12; Ethel, 10; Henry, 8; Kate, 6.

(Bare room; father sick, sitting in chair with blanket around him; mother and children poorly dressed; mother darning stockings.)

KATE—Mama, aren't we going to have any Christmas this year? All the girls in our room at school have dolls but me. Why can't I have a teenty weenty one? (Measures a few inches with her hands.)

MRS. W.—Sometime we will, dear.

ETHEL—Mama, you always say that, but we haven't had any Christmas for years and years.

MRS. W.—Hush, child, we mustn't complain. We'll make papa sick again if we don't keep happy and cheerful. We'd rather have him well than to have twenty dolls, wouldn't we?

ETHEL—Well, why couldn't we have him well and have just one doll apiece for us girls?

HENRY—Say, ma, the 10-cent store has got dandy tops that sing a tune and they only cost 10 cents. Couldn't I buy one?

MRS. W.—Listen, children, and I'll tell you what we'll do. Let's see. Christmas is tomorrow. We'll celebrate by having *sugar* on our oatmeal for breakfast, and we'll have butter on our bread for dinner! Then we'll buy enough meat to make a little meat loaf so we can each have a slice of it. Won't that make Christmas a jolly day.

JOE—Um yum! Hooray! (turns a somersault in his excitement). We haven't had a bite of meat since Thanksgiving. Say, kids, do you remember how good that meat tasted, even if it was only soup meat?

ALL THE CHILDREN—Yes, yes.

MRS. W.—Now, children, the sun is shining, so you may go out to play for half an hour. Play hard and you will keep warm.

KATE—Mama, can Jesus hear our prayers in this poor old house?

MRS. W.—Why, yes, my dear. He doesn't care where we are when we pray to Him, if our hearts are right.

KATE—(kneeling)—Dear Jesus, please make papa well and send me and Ethel a dolly apiece. If you haven't got that many, just send us one and we'll take turns playing with it. Amen.

HENRY—(kneeling as Kate rises)—Dear Jesus, please answer Kate's prayer and send us meat enough so we can have two slices apiece. And please send me a top and Joe a ball. And help us not to get cross when we can't have sugar or butter. Amen.

MRS. W.—Run on out, children.

(Children go out. Mother and father look at each other. Mother puts her face in her hands, as if discouraged.)

MR. W.—My, it is terrible to sit here so weak and helpless and see you and the children want for things.

MRS. W.—I don't mind for myself, but to think that the children don't have enough good, nourishing food and no warm clothes! Kate and Henry have mittens, but the rest are going with bare hands. They all have holes in their shoes and I've patched their stockings until I can't do it any more. I suppose there are people who are throwing money away on unnecessary things—and here we are half starved. It doesn't seem fair.

(Children come running into the room.)

JOE—Mother, it's too cold to play outdoors, so we've come in.

(Knock is heard, Joe opens door; Carol, Helen, Mary and James enter.)

CAROL—Is this where Mr. Williams lives?

JOE—Why, yes—that's our name.

CAROL—(to Mrs. W.)—Don't you remember me, Mrs. Williams? I used to be in your Sunday School class.

MRS. W.—(to her husband)—Why, it's Carol Boyd, papa.

CAROL—And this is Helen Harrison and her brother and sister. Mr. Williams, we want to share our Christmas happiness with our old friends. We brought you a bathrobe and some warm slippers. (Lays them on his lap.)

MR. W.—Oh, thank you.

ETHEL—I'll help you put them on. (With her help he manages to get them on.)

HENRY—Say, did you bring my favver a top?

HELEN—(laughing)—No, we didn't. But we brought a pair of shoes and a cap for you. How do you like that?

CAROL—I shouldn't be surprised that there is a top in this package. You unwrap it and see. (To Mrs. W. :) Will you accept a hat and a warm coat, Mrs. Williams?

MRS. W.—My dear, I think God must have sent you. He is the only one who knows how badly we've needed some warm clothes.

HELEN—Carol, I'm going to give these patient little girls their packages.

CAROL—Yes, do. I'll get out their caps and mittens in the meantime. Here, Joe, is one for you. (Hands caps and mittens to Joe and the little girls. The girls scream for joy when they open the packages Helen gives them and see the dolls they contain. Knock at the door. Joe opens it and a delivery boy says, "Groceries for Williams," and piles on the table a sack of flour and four or five other large packages.)

JOE—Why, this stuff can't be for us. We never get more than a quarter's worth of anything at a time.

HENRY—(tearing off a little of the paper from one of the packages)—Oh, ma, there's a whole lot of meat. Goody! Goody! We can have two slices apiece.

MR. W.—What does this mean, Carol?

CAROL—Our Sunday School has a White Gift Christmas every year, because we have found out it is more blessed to give than to receive. So instead of having a Christmas tree loaded down with presents for each other, every class brings an offering for some one who would not have any Christmas joy otherwise. We send the cash offering to an orphanage to make those poor kiddies happy, and the eatables we take to worthy families living in town.

MR. W.—Once, I'd have called this charity and refused to accept anything, but we have been at the end of our resources because of my sickness. You young folks act as if you really enjoyed giving so bountifully, so I can't help thinking God sent you as an answer to our prayers.

HELEN—Mr. Williams, will you let me tell you a little about myself?

MR. W.—Why, certainly.

HELEN—I've been a thoughtless, selfish girl. The last few years I've dreaded to have Christmas come, because I have a number of friends who always give me beautiful gifts, and it was such a worry to decide what to give them, and to try to get something they didn't have, and something that would cost as much as their gifts to me. I used to wish I could go away till Christmas was over. But Carol has showed us how to make Christmas the happiest season of the year. I don't believe I was ever so happy before. So you see it has done us as much good as it has you.

MARY and JAMES—Yes, sir; this is the very best Christmas we ever had.

CAROL—Now, goodby, all of you. Merry Christmas.

ALL THE WILLIAMS FAMILY—Thank you. Thank you. Happy New Year.

MRS. W.—(taking Carol by the hand)—May God bless you all, and may you have all through your lives such blessed happiness as you have brought to us today.

CURTAIN



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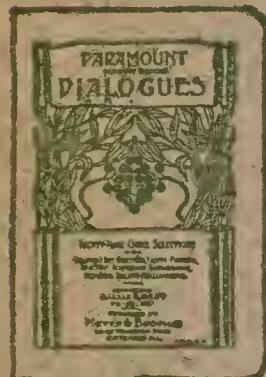


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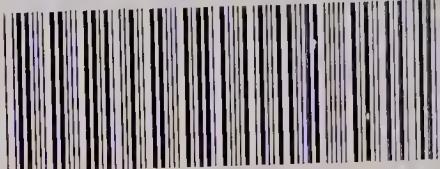


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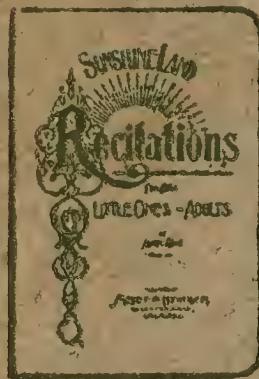


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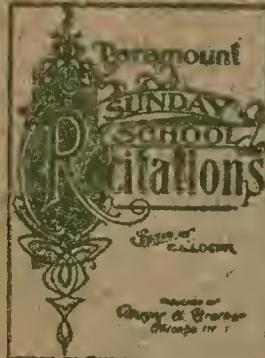


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